

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** An interference pigment having a mass tone, which comprises a flake-form substrate with successive coatings of:

- (A) a colorless coating having a refractive index of  $n > 1.8$  in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,
- (B) a colorless coating having a refractive index of  $n \leq 1.8$  in a layer thickness of 10 – 100 nm,
- (C) a colorless coating having a refractive index of  $n > 1.8$  in a layer thickness of 20 – 250 nm,
- (D) an absorbent layer having a layer thickness of 1 – 100 nm, which comprises at least one metal oxide, sulfide, telluride, selenide, lanthanide, phosphate, or actinide, or a mixture of two or more of the above, a titanium oxynitride or titanium nitride,

and, optionally,

- (E) an outer protective layer.

**2. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the flake-form substrate is natural or synthetic mica, glass flake,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  flake,  $\text{SiO}_2$  flake or  $\text{TiO}_2$  flake, or a mixture thereof.

3. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) consists of TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO or BiOCl.

4. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (A) consists of TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO or BiOCl.

5. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO<sub>2</sub>, MgF<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, AlO(OH), MgSiO<sub>3</sub> or Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or mixtures thereof.

6. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO<sub>2</sub>, MgF<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, AlO(OH), MgSiO<sub>3</sub> or Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or mixtures thereof.

7. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (B) consists of SiO<sub>2</sub>, MgF<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, AlO(OH), MgSiO<sub>3</sub> or Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, or mixtures thereof.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer (D) consists of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, a molybdenum oxide, CoO, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, VO<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, NiO, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, CuO, Cu<sub>2</sub>O, Ag<sub>2</sub>O, CeO<sub>2</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, MoS<sub>2</sub>, WS<sub>2</sub>, a titanium oxynitride, titanium nitride or any combination of the above.

10. **(Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 2, wherein the absorbent layer (D) consists of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, a molybdenum oxide,

CoO, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, VO<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, NiO, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, CuO, Cu<sub>2</sub>O, Ag<sub>2</sub>O, CeO<sub>2</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, MoS<sub>2</sub>, WS<sub>2</sub>, a titanium oxynitride, titanium nitride or any combination of the above.

**11. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein the absorbent layer (D) consists of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, a molybdenum oxide, CoO, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, VO<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, NiO, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, CuO, Cu<sub>2</sub>O, Ag<sub>2</sub>O, CeO<sub>2</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, MoS<sub>2</sub>, WS<sub>2</sub>, a titanium oxynitride, titanium nitride or any combination of the above.

**12. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 5, wherein the absorbent layer (D) consists of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ce<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, a molybdenum oxide, CoO, Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, VO<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, NiO, V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, CuO, Cu<sub>2</sub>O, Ag<sub>2</sub>O, CeO<sub>2</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Mn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, MoS<sub>2</sub>, WS<sub>2</sub>, a titanium oxynitride, titanium nitride or any combination of the above.

**13. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 1, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) have the same composition.

**14. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 3, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) have the same composition.

**15. (Original)** An interference pigment according to claim 13, wherein coating (A) and coating (C) consist of TiO<sub>2</sub>.

16. **(Original)** A process for producing an interference pigment according to claim 1, which comprises coating the flake-form substrate by a wet-chemical method of hydrolytic decomposition of metal salts in aqueous medium or by a CVD or PVD process.

17. **(Original)** A paint, coating, printing ink, plastic, ceramic, glass, cosmetic, or laser markable composition comprising a pigment of claim 1.

18. **(Original)** A pigment composition comprising one or more binders, optionally one or more additives, and one or more interference pigments according to claim 1.

19. **(Original)** A dry preparation comprising an interference pigment according to claim 1.

20. **(Original)** A dry preparation of claim 19, in the form of pellets, granules, chips or briquettes.